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U.S. Patent and Trademark office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number, REQUEST Application Number 09/923,270 FOR Filing Date August 3, 2001 CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL First Named Inventor Kleinschmidt Art Unit 1648 Address to: Mail Stop RCE Examiner Name U. Winkler Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450 31304-704.304 Attorney Docket Number Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2. Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114 amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s). Previously submitted. If a final office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on Ŧ. П IJ. X **Enclosed** Amendment/Reply iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) ١. iv.

Other 11. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s) 2. Miscellaneous Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of ___ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(I) required) b. The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed. Fees The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account X No. 23-2415 (Attorney Docket No. 31304-704.831 í RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e) Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17) ii. П III. П Other Check in the amount of \$___ enclosed b. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed) C. WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) 25.227 Albert P. Halluin Name (Print/Type) Signature CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mall Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted

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